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Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

Listing of Claims:

- C/
1. (Original) A method for managing information to be accessed by multiple consumers, said information comprising one or more information records, said information records to be accessed by said multiple consumers in a specified order, each said information record comprising data to be accessed by a consumer, said method comprising:
    - providing said data of an information record to a consumer; and
    - updating a history table, said history table comprising
      - one or more history records,
      - each said history record comprising
        - a message state field,said updating comprising
    - setting said message state field in a history record corresponding to said consumer to indicate said consumer accessed said data.
  2. (Currently Amended) The method for managing information of claim 1, in which each said information record further comprises:
    - a message identifier value that identifies the data of said information record; andeach said history record further comprises:
    - a message id field that identifies data in an information record.
  3. (Original) The method for managing information of claim 2, in which each said history record further comprises



Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

U  
a consumer id field that identifies a consumer of said multiple consumers that is to  
access data in an information record,

said data identified by said message id field in said history record,

said consumer id field of said history record identifying said history record as  
corresponding to said consumer.

4. (Original) The method for managing information of claim 3, in which said updating  
comprises

setting said message state field in the history record with a message id field that  
identifies said data that said consumer is provided access to and with a consumer id field  
that identifies said consumer.

5. (Original) The method for managing information of claim 1, in which said history table  
comprises

a history record for each consumer, for each information record comprising data  
to be provided to each said consumer, and in which prefix index key compression is used  
to store only one instance of a message identifier value that identifies the data of an  
information record in said history table for each history record for said information  
record.

6. (Original) The method for managing information of claim 1, further comprising  
storing data to be accessed by a consumer in an information record;



Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

C/

creating a history record for each consumer that is to access said data; and  
setting said message state field in each said history record to indicate said data has  
not been accessed.

7. (Original) The method for managing information of claim 1, further comprising  
a read-order table, said read-order table comprising  
order data that indicates the relative order that data in said  
information records is to be accessed by said multiple consumers,  
said method further comprising  
identifying the data of an information record that a consumer is to be provided  
access to by said order data in said read-order table.
8. (Original) The method for managing information of claim 1, further comprising:  
reading one or more history records of said history table, said one or more history  
records comprising a history table read; and  
deleting an information record if all the message state fields in all of the history  
records of said history table read indicate that said data in said information record has  
been accessed.
9. (Original) The method for managing information of claim 1, further comprising  
a work list table, said work list table comprising  
one or more work entries,



Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

each said work entry comprising

an identification of data in an information record.

10. (Original) The method for managing information of claim 9, further comprising  
adding a work entry to said work list table, said work entry comprising an  
identification of said data said consumer is provided access to.
11. (Original) The method for managing information of claim 9, further comprising:  
accessing a work entry in said work list table;  
reading one or more history records of said history table, said one or more history  
records comprising a history table read, said one or more history records comprising said  
history table read determined by said work entry; and  
deleting an information record if all the message state fields in all of the history  
records of said history table read indicate that said data in said information record has  
been accessed.
12. (Original) The method for managing information of claim 9, further comprising:  
batching two or more work entries in said work list table; and  
performing in a single transaction  
reading one or more history records of said history table, said one  
or more history records determined by said two or more work entries, and  
deleting one or more information records.



Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

13. (Previously Presented) A system for the delivery of information to multiple consumers;  
said system comprising:

an information queue comprising

one or more information queue records,

each said information queue record comprising

information to be accessed by one or more consumers; and

a table separated from said information queue comprising

one or more table records,

each said table record comprising

an identification of said information in an

information queue record,

each said table record further comprising

a consumer identification field comprising an

identification of one of said one or more consumers.

14. (Original) The system for the delivery of information to multiple consumers of claim 13,  
in which each said information queue record further comprises

said identification of said information of said information queue record.

15. (Original) The system for the delivery of information to multiple consumers of claim 13,  
in which each said table record further comprises



Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

cl  
a message state field that indicates if the information in said information queue identified in the corresponding information identification field of said table record has been delivered to the consumer identified in the consumer identification field of said table record.

16. (Original) The system for the delivery of information to multiple consumers of claim 13, further comprising a read-order table, said read-order table comprising

order data indicating the order that information in said information queue is to be delivered to a consumer.

17. (Original) The system for the delivery of information to multiple consumers of claim 16, in which said read-order table comprises

one or more records,

each said record of said read-order table comprising

an identification field that identifies information in an information queue record,

each said record of said read-order table further comprising

an enqueue time field that comprises said order data.

18. (Original) The system for the delivery of information to multiple consumers of claim 13, further comprising

a work list table, said work list table comprising



CI  
Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

one or more work list entries,  
each said work list entry comprising  
an identification of information in an information queue record.

19. (Original) The system for the delivery of information to multiple consumers of claim 18,  
in which each said work list entry is a record.

20. (Original) The system for the delivery of information to multiple consumers of claim 18,  
in which said work list table comprises

one or more work records and each said work list entry is a field in a work record.

21. (Previously Presented) A system for the delivery of messages to multiple consumers,  
said system comprising:

a message queue comprising

one or more message queue records,

each said one or more message queue records comprising

a message and

a message identification;

a history table separated from said message queue comprising

one or more history records,

each of said one or more history records comprising

a message identification,



Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

CI

a consumer identification and  
a message state identification; and  
a work list table separated from said message queue and said history table  
comprising  
one or more work list entries,  
each said work list entry comprising  
a message identification.

22. (Original) The system for the delivery of messages to multiple consumers of claim 21,  
further comprising

a read-order table comprising one or more read-order records, each said read-  
order record comprising

a message identification and  
order data, said order data indicating the relative order that the  
message of said message queue that is identified by the message  
identification of said read-order record is to be delivered to a consumer.

23. (Original) A method for multiple consumers to access information in a non first-in first-  
out, prescribed order, said information comprising one or more pieces of information, a first  
piece of information stored in a first location, said method comprising:

providing access to said first piece of information to a first consumer of said  
multiple consumers;



Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

CI  
indicating in a second location that said first consumer has accessed said first piece of information;

providing access to said first piece of information to a second consumer of said multiple consumers; and

indicating in a third location that said second consumer has accessed said first piece of information.

24. (Original) The method for multiple consumers to access information of claim 23, in which said first location comprises

an information entry in a queue of information.

25. (Original) The method for multiple consumers to access information of claim 24, in which said queue of information comprises

one or more information entries, and

each said information entry comprises

a piece of information to be accessed by one or more of said

multiple consumers,

each said information entry further comprising

an identification of said piece of information in said information

entry.



Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

26. (Original) The method for multiple consumers to access information of claim 25, further comprising

deleting said entry comprising said first piece of information that said first consumer and said second consumer is provided access to from said queue of information after said first consumer and said second consumer have accessed said first piece of information.

27. (Previously Presented) The system for delivery of information to multiple consumers of claim 13, in which for each of said one or more consumers, said table comprises

a separate table record for each piece of information to be accessed by said consumer.

28. (Previously Presented) The method for multiple consumers to access information of claim 23, in which said second location comprises

a history entry in a history table, said history entry comprising  
an identification of said first piece of information and  
an identification of said first consumer.

29. (Previously Presented) The method for multiple consumers to access information of claim 28, in which said third location comprises

another history entry in said history table, said other history entry comprising  
an identification of said first piece of information and



C1  
Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

an identification of said second consumer.

30. (Previously Presented) The method for multiple consumers to access information of claim 23, further comprising:

indicating in a fourth location an order in which said one or more pieces of information is to be accessed by said multiple consumers.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer program product that includes a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to execute a process for multiple consumers to access information in a non first-in first-out, prescribed order, said information comprising one or more pieces of information, a first piece of information stored in a first location, said process comprising:

providing access to said first piece of information to a first consumer of said multiple consumers;

indicating in a second location that said first consumer has accessed said first piece of information;

providing access to said first piece of information to a second consumer of said multiple consumers; and

indicating in a third location that said second consumer has accessed said first piece of information.



Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

32. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 31, in which said first location comprises

an information entry in a queue of information.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 32, in which said queue of information comprises

one or more information entries, and

each said information entry comprises

a piece of information to be accessed by one or more of said

multiple consumers,

each said information entry further comprising

an identification of said piece of information in said information

entry.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 33, further comprising deleting said entry comprising said first piece of information that said first consumer and said second consumer is provided access to from said queue of information after said first consumer and said second consumer have accessed said first piece of information.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 31, in which said second location comprises



Cl  
Appl No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

a history entry in a history table, said history entry comprising  
an identification of said first piece of information and  
an identification of said first consumer.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35, in which said third location comprises

another history entry in said history table, said other history entry comprising  
an identification of said first piece of information and  
an identification of said second consumer.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 31, further comprising:  
indicating in a fourth location an order in which said one or more pieces of  
information is to be accessed by said multiple consumers.

38. (Previously Presented) A system for multiple consumers to access information in a non first-in first-out, prescribed order, said information comprising one or more pieces of  
information, a first piece of information stored in a first location, said system comprising:

means for providing access to said first piece of information to a first consumer of  
said multiple consumers;

means for indicating in a second location that said first consumer has accessed  
said first piece of information;



Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

means for providing access to said first piece of information to a second consumer of said multiple consumers; and

means for indicating in a third location that said second consumer has accessed said first piece of information.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, in which said first location comprises an information entry in a queue of information.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, in which said queue of information comprises

one or more information entries, and

each said information entry comprises

a piece of information to be accessed by one or more of said

multiple consumers,

each said information entry further comprising

an identification of said piece of information in said information

entry.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, further comprising

means for deleting said entry comprising said first piece of information that said first consumer and said second consumer is provided access to from said queue of



C1  
Appl. No.: 09/265,489  
Amdt. dated: January 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

Patent  
Docket No.: 237/116

information after said first consumer and said second consumer have accessed said first piece of information.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, in which said second location comprises a history entry in a history table, said history entry comprising an identification of said first piece of information and an identification of said first consumer.
43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42, in which said third location comprises another history entry in said history table, said other history entry comprising an identification of said first piece of information and an identification of said second consumer.
44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, further comprising:  
means for indicating in a fourth location an order in which said one or more pieces of information is to be accessed by said multiple consumers.
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